

RESOURCES for AGING

November 13, 2006 (Vol. 3 No. 15)

Welcome to Resources for Aging, the electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) of the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) in Lansing**. It provides timely information about aging network news, events and resources.

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Complimentary issues are sent directly by e-mail to those on an e-newsletter distribution list. Printed copies are mailed upon request to those who do not have Internet/e-mail access. Also, past issues can be accessed at www.miseniors.net.

Resources for Aging is distributed every three weeks. The next issue will be dated December 4.

For more information about this e-newsletter, see the RESOURCES FOR AGING section at the end of this issue.

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AGING NETWORK NEWS/RESOURCES

CSA Invites Applications for SAC Membership

Applications for membership in the State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) are now available for 2007. The SAC provides advice and recommendations to the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) and OSA.

Another of its responsibilities is to research and make recommendations on issues with statewide impact. In recent years, SAC has addressed health promotion, elder-friendly communities, information and assistance, and mental health for senior adults.

SAC is a 40-member council appointed by CSA. It meets six times/year in Lansing, and members are reimbursed for travel. A majority of the members must be age 60 or older.

SAC has 18-20 vacancies each year. New members are selected according to several criteria including their knowledge and personal involvement in aging issues, and geographic and demographic distribution. SAC members may apply for re-appointment.

Applications must be received by **January 26, 2007** for terms beginning **May, 2007**.

Applications can be downloaded at www.miseniors.net. For more information or to obtain an application by mail, call **Carol Stangel** at OSA (517/373-4093) or e-mail her at stangelc1@michigan.gov. Send completed applications to CSA Chairperson **Jerutha Kennedy** at OSA, P.O. Box 30676, Lansing, 48909-8176.

MDC Announces the Availability of Dementia Resources

The Michigan Dementia Coalition (MDC) announces the release of the Knowledge and Skills Needed for Dementia Care: A Guide for Direct Care Workers. It is available at www.dementiacoalition.org, and can be downloaded and printed at no charge.

The Michigan Dementia Education and Training Program Directory is also available at www.dementiacoalition.org for downloading. It is a directory of the education and training programs available in Michigan to assist health and human service provider agencies in locating potential dementia education programs and trainers in their areas of the state.

The MDC represents a collaboration of consumers, community groups, universities and state agencies convened for a common purpose, to improve the quality of life of persons with dementia and their families by sharing information; enhancing coordination of efforts; providing recommendations as appropriate to the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH); and identifying the priority needs of persons with dementia and their caregivers, and responding strategically.

The MDC also offers information and listings by Michigan counties of adult day programs for persons with dementia, and dementia assessment providers.

For more information, go to www.dementiacoalition.org, call 517/324-7318 or e-mail to mhorst@mphi.org.

HHS National Clearinghouse on LTC Goes Online

The National Clearinghouse on Long-Term Care (LTC), sponsored by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and hosted by the Administration on Aging (AoA), has gone live via the Internet.

The purpose of the National Clearinghouse is to increase LTC knowledge and planning around LTC financing. It contains information for consumers on understanding LTC, planning for LTC, and paying for LTC.

The National Clearinghouse is part of the Own Your Future Campaign and the AoA Choices for Independence initiative. To access the National Clearinghouse website, go to www.longtermcare.gov/ltc/main_site/index.aspx.

MPSC Highlights Home Heating Programs for Low-income Elders

With winter fast approaching, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has initiated "Be WinterWise," a campaign to make people aware of higher natural gas prices and what they can do to lower their bills.

Although natural gas bills this winter are expected to be about \$20/month less than last winter, steps can be taken for additional savings. The MPSC provides information on a

variety of financial assistance programs available to low-income utility customers, including senior adults

For low-income utility customers, the MPSC has announced \$45 million in grants for low-income energy assistance. The MPSC indicates another \$15 million in grants for low-income energy efficiency will soon be awarded.

Additional help for low-income customers will come from a new, voluntary agreement with Michigan natural gas and electric utilities. It is designed to protect more people from winter shut-offs. Senior adults should contact their local utilities for more information.

Another way is through tax credits. According to the MPSC, federal tax credits are available for certain energy-efficient improvements made in 2006 and 2007. These tax credits vary depending on the type of improvement, but these can be substantial. For more information about these tax credits, go to www.doe.gov, the website of the US Department of Energy (DOE).

Also, the State of Michigan offers the Home Heating Credit (see form MI-1040CR-7 from the Michigan Department of Treasury). A home heating credit booklet will be sent to those who file a Home Heating Credit for 2006. Those not receiving a booklet can obtain one online at www.michigan.gov/treasury. By the end of January 2007, forms will be available wherever tax forms are located. After February 2007, forms can be obtained by calling 800/367-6263.

Other financial assistance programs include utility budget plans that are available to residential customers; the State Emergency Relief Program administered by Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHS) local offices; and the federal Earned Income Credit offered by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on federal tax forms.

For more information, go to the MPSC's updated "Be WinterWise" website (www.michigan.gov/bewinterwise). It contains conservation tips, as well as information about these financial assistance programs. Other conservation tips are available at www.energysavers.org or by calling the MPSC at 800/292-9555.

MLHS to Conduct Annual Meeting and Public Policy Forum

The Michigan League for Human Services (MLHS) will conduct its 2006 Annual Meeting and Public Policy Forum December 7 at the Holiday Inn Lansing West in Lansing.

Entitled "A Public Sector for the Public Good: Engaging Citizens in a Shared Vision," this year's annual event will feature recent work by Public Works: the Demos Center for the Public Sector, a public policy and research organization based in New York.

The work of this organization includes research into American's perception of government, and effective strategies for communicating the important role of the public sector in the lives of citizens, including elder citizens.

Public services, including aging network services, are constantly under attack because many citizens have a negative view of government and services it provides with tax dollars. The result over the years has been a diminishing perception of the role of government, and an erosion of resources needed by the public and nonprofit sectors to

problem-solve and provide services.

This is particularly troubling as Michigan's policymakers struggle with the elimination of the Single Business Tax (SBT), an ongoing structural deficit, and the budgetary fall-out that results from dwindling revenues.

So, one purpose of this year's MLHS Annual Meeting and Public Policy Forum will be to discuss ways to involve citizens in broadening the public debate on budget and tax policy through analysis, public education, and the encouragement of civic engagement.

For more information, go to www.mlhs.org or call 517/487-5436.

CMU Establishes Fall and Balance Center

More than one-third of healthy adults age 65 or older fall every year. According to the National Institutes of Health and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) falling accounts for 80 to 95 percent of hip fractures, and is the leading cause of injury deaths in older adults. In addition, nearly 20 percent of those who fall sustain a moderate to severe injury such as a head injury. .

Because falling represents a growing concern for senior adults, Central Michigan University (CMU) is establishing a Fall and Balance Center at its Mt. Pleasant campus. It will be a state-of-the art clinical facility that specializes in fall and balance assessment and rehabilitation, and it will be accepting patients after the first of the year. Also, it will provide CMU students with unique educational and clinical learning opportunities.

This center represents a community partnership between the university and community organizations, including the Isabella County Commission on Aging. The university is participating in this collaborative effort through the CMU Bridges Center for Healthy Transitions and the CMU Carls Center for Clinical Care and Education. Together they focus on fall prevention, assessment and rehabilitation for balance disorders, and they aim to provide senior adults and others with specialized services.

In addition, the CMU Fall and Balance Center will serve as a clearinghouse for disseminating information about falls, balance-related resources, and best practices for dealing with falls and balance disorders. As a charter member of the Michigan Fall Prevention Partnership, it plans to offer a website, written materials, workshops, symposiums and conferences designed to raise awareness, and enhance the skills of health care professionals.

For more information, go to www.chp.cmich.edu/bridges or call Bridges Center Director **Liana Bachand** at 989/774-2341.

MPSC Offers Senior Adults Telephone Assistance Programs

Low income senior adults are encouraged to apply for two telephone assistance programs called Link-Up America and Lifeline. Both are sponsored by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC).

The two programs make basic local telephone service more affordable. Those who qualify can receive discounts for monthly telephone bills and/or initial installation costs of telephone service.

To qualify, an individual or family must be at 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline, or must participate in Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8) the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and/or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. .

With Lifeline, eligible low-income elders, age 65 or more, can receive a discount of, at a minimum, 25 percent of the basic local service rate offered by their local telephone provider or \$12.35/month, whichever is greater.

Link-Up reduces the installation charge for telephone service by 50 percent, up to \$30.00, for telephone service for those customers meeting income eligibility guidelines. Customers can request a deferred payment schedule for the remaining installation charges.

To apply, senior adults must contact their local telephone company. All local wire line/land line telephone service providers in Michigan are required to provide Lifeline and Link-up America. The telephone numbers for these two programs can generally be found in front of telephone books.

BCBS Addresses Suicide by Senior Adults

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBS) has distributed the “Suicide Among the Aged” issue of Advancing Suicide Prevention, a strategic national health policy magazine, to address suicide prevention among older persons, and to educate Michigan aging network service providers. For more information, go to www.advancingsp.org or call 920/457-4033.

SSA Expands Multi-Language Services on the Internet

Because the senior adult population has become more diverse, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has expanded its “Multi-language Gateway” on the Internet to provide information in 15 languages in addition to English and Spanish.

Those who go to www.socialsecurity.gov/multi-language will now find 30 online Social Security program publications in 15 languages: Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Farsi, French, Greek, Haitian-Creole, Italian, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese. They provide detailed and useful information about Social Security retirement, disability and survivor benefits, and Social Security Income (SSI).

The Spanish language page, entitled “Seguro Social en Espanol and found at www.segurosocial.gov/espanol, is even more extensive. It offers more than 65 online publications in Spanish, as well as benefit calculators, press releases, and frequently asked questions about social security.

The SSA has been hiring bilingual staff members at its 1,300 field offices. The goal is to have SSA staff members who reflect the various cultural and ethnic backgrounds of the communities they serve, and who are able to speak languages that are spoken in those communities.

In addition, the SSA offers free interpreter services in more than 100 languages. Those who call 800/772-1213 can press 2 if they speak Spanish. For other languages, they an

press 1 and stay on the line until a SSA staff person answers. An interpreter will be contacted to help with the telephone call. If the caller cannot complete his SSA business by telephone, then the SSA makes an appointment for that person to meet with an interpreter at the SSA office.

Foundation Matches \$ for \$ to Benefit Senior Center

The Whirlpool Foundation will match dollar for dollar the donations of Whirlpool retirees and employees to the North Berrien Senior Center in Coloma. However, each contribution must be at least \$50.00. For more information, call 269/468-3366 or e-mail to nbsc@i2k.net

AARP GIC Publication Explains Benefits for Grandparent Caregivers

The AARP Foundation's Grandparent Information Center (GIC) offers a publication to inform grandparent caregivers about public benefits that may be available to them and the grandchildren they are raising.

Entitled Guide to Public Benefits for Grandfamilies, it provides information about cash assistance, health, nutrition and tax credits that can help these families make ends meet. It presents useful information for grandparents and other kinship relatives raising grandchildren who live on limited, fixed incomes that make it difficult for them to care adequately for the children.

This publication also recommends that these grandparent caregivers go to www.benefitscheckup.org to determine if they are eligible for cash assistance, health, food or home energy services.

For more information, call 202/434-2218 or e-mail agoyer@aarp.

Foundation Partners with CoA to Sponsor Senior Night Series

The Morey Foundation has partnered with the Isabella County Commission on Aging to sponsor a "Senior Night Series" of musicals for senior adults. They enjoy free admission, pop and popcorn. All performances are produced by the Broadway Players, and held at the Broadway Theater in downtown Mt. Pleasant.

More than 90 elders benefited from the first musical. It was a stage production of "Dracula" held last September. In October they went to a performance of "Cheaper by the Dozen." This month they attended the musical called "A Christmas Carol," and next May will attend "On Borrowed Time." Also, a classic film will be shown next spring.

The free tickets are available at the Isabella Senior Center in Mt. Pleasant. For more information, call 989/772-2075

Consumer Reports Offers Nursing Home Rating Site

A Consumer Reports investigation of nursing homes has determined that there has not been a significant increase in the overall quality of nursing facility care in the last five years. It also finds that poor care persists since passage of the 1987 Nursing Home Reform Act.

Consumer Reports, a national consumer publication, sponsors the “Consumer Reports Nursing Home Quality Monitor” website at www.consumerreports.org/nursinghomes). It provides a national database to identify and monitor the best and worst nursing homes in every state. It also lists facilities that have been fined for violating state or federal regulations, and provides general consumer advice on selecting a nursing home.

Since 2000, Consumer Reports has published several reviews of nursing homes. It has found that nonprofit nursing homes are more likely to provide good care than for-profit nursing homes, and independently-run nursing homes are more likely to provide good care than chains.

To download the Consumer Reports investigation report, go to www.consumerreports.org/nursinghomes.

For more information, call State Long-term Ombudsman **Sarah Slocum** at OSA (517/335-0148) or e-mail her at slocums@michigan.gov.

Senior Center Establishes Fundraiser in Lieu of Flowers

The Clinton Township Senior Center in Clinton Township has embarked on a new program in which senior adults can specify that memorial donations be donated to the senior center in lieu of flowers at funerals and memorial services. Contributions of this type will be permanent because they will be used to expand the senior center facilities. Donation envelopes are free and available at the senior center office.

It is suggested to senior adults at the center that they add a reminder note to their pre-planning materials to expedite this, and ensure that their final wishes are honored. For more information, call **Matt Makowski** at the senior center (586/286-9333) or e-mail him at m.makowski@clintontowship-mi.gov.

Foundation Provides Orientation to Parkinson’s

The Parkinson Foundation sponsors “The Orientation to Parkinson’s Program” to regularly offer two-hour orientation sessions that help those who are newly diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease and their families start off on a positive note in understanding and working with health care providers to manage this disease.

Also included is information about available resources. All sessions are free of charge, and are held at the Michigan Parkinson Foundation offices in Bingham Farms. For more information or to register, or to find out when future sessions will be held, go to www.parkinsonsmi.org or call toll-free 800/852-9781.

OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. **November 17** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Cindy Albrecht** at OSA (517/335-4016) or e-mail to albrechtc@michigan.gov.

State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC)

The next meeting will be held 9:30 a.m. **December 7** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Sally Steiner** at OSA (517/373-8810) or e-mail to steiners@michigan.gov.

OSA/Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Directors

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. **December 12** in the First Floor Conference Room of the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (AAAAM), 6105 West St. Joseph in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Jan Bowlin** at OSA (517/241-3864) or e-mail to bowlinj1@michigan.gov, or call **Mary Ablan** at the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (517/886-1227) or e-mail her at ablan@iserv.net.

EVENTS/MEETINGS ADDED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month 2006, a proclamation made by the President on October 30 for **November 1-30**. For more information, see the FEDERAL REGISTER section of this issue (below).

National Diabetes Month 2006, a proclamation made by the President on October 30 for **November 1-30**. For more information, see the FEDERAL REGISTER section of this issue (below).

National Family Caregivers Month 2006, a proclamation made by the President on October 30 for **November 1-30**. For more information, see the FEDERAL REGISTER section of this issue (below).

National Hospice Month 2006, a proclamation made by the President on October 30 for **November 1-30**. For more information, see the FEDERAL REGISTER section of this issue (below).

Seniors: Safe, Sound & Secure, sponsored by TRIAD **November 16** at the First Presbyterian Church in **Niles** to discuss issues such as nursing homes vs. assisted living, and schemes, scams and swindles. For more information, call 269/695-3887, ext. 7221.

SAD: Seasonal Effective Disorder, sponsored by the Midland County Council on Aging (CoA) **November 16** at the CoA Senior Services Building in **Midland** to learn more about winter depression mood disorder. For more information, call 989/633-3700.

Chronic Disease: Small Steps...Big Rewards, a 2006 Chronic Care Symposium sponsored by Medical Care Network One and Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of Michigan **November 16** in the Oakland Center at Oakland University in **Rochester**. For more information, go to www.mednetone.com or call 248/475-4702.

Holiday Craft Bazaar & Bake Sale, sponsored by the Manistique Senior Citizen Center **November 18** at the center in **Manistique**. All crafts and baked goods must be handmade. For more information, call 906/341-5923.

Christmas Craft Fair & Bazaar, sponsored by the Alpena Senior Center **November 18** at the senior center in **Alpena**. For more information, call 989/356-3585, ext. 19.

Holiday Arts & Crafts Show, sponsored by the Antrim County Commission on Aging (CoA) **November 18** at the Bellaire High School Cafetorium in **Bellaire**. For more information, call 231/533-8703.

The Fabulous Turner Vintage Jewelry Sale, sponsored by the Turner Resource Center **November 19** at the Resource Center in **Ann Arbor**. All proceeds from the bags of necklaces, earrings, tie pins, bracelets, cuff links, etc. will go to support Turner's social work programs and services for senior adults in the community. For more information, call 734/764-2556.

Coping with the Holidays, a free presentation sponsored by the Cass County Council on Aging (CoA) Grief Support Group **November 20** at the CoA in **Cassopolis** to provide information, insight and compassionate suggestions for those grieving during the holiday season. For more information, call 269/445-8110 or toll free 800/323-0390.

Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner, co-sponsored by the Gratiot County Commission on Aging on Aging **November 23** at the Alma Presbyterian Church in **Alma**. For more information, or to volunteer or make reservations, call 989/875-5246.

Senior Center Grand Opening, sponsored by the Coleman Senior Center **November 27** in **Coleman**. For more information, call 989/456-6216.

Dental & Mouth Care for Someone with Dementia, sponsored by the Midland County Council on Aging (CoA) **November 28** at the CoA Senior Services Building in **Midland** to give caregivers tips on how to maintain the dental health of a loved one. For more information, call 989/633-3700.

AARC 2006 Annual Training Conference, entitled "One Alabama: The Road to the Future" and sponsored by the Alabama Association of Regional Councils in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Senior Services **November 28-December 1** at the Perdido Beach Resort in **Orange Beach, AL**. For more information, go to www.alarc.org or call 334/277-2221.

Identity Theft, sponsored by the Midland County Council on Aging (CoA) **November 29** at the CoA Senior Services Building in **Midland** to talk about how to avoid identity theft. For more information, call 989/633-3722.

Hannah Speaker Series Luncheon, sponsored by the East Lansing Seniors' Program **November 30** at the Hannah Community Center in **East Lansing**, featuring a presentation on the intersection between humans and animals, particularly around issues of aging and health, including findings from the Michigan State University (MSU) Human Animal Bond Initiative (HABI). For more information, call 517/337-1113.

Five Ways to Improve Your Health, a free Holistic Series session sponsored by the Portage Senior Center **November 30** at the senior center in **Portage** to discuss the top five ways senior adults can improve their health through the use of organic foods or supplements. For more information, call 269/329-4555.

Annual Christmas Open House at Dreamhaven, sponsored by Dreamhaven **December 2, 3, 6, 9 and 10** at the elegantly decorated residence in **Cassopolis** with all proceeds going directly to the Cass County Council on Aging (CoA). For more information call 269-445-8110 or toll-free 800/323-0390.

2002 Second Annual Rural Health Conference, sponsored by the California State Rural Health Association **December 4-6** at the Sheraton Grand in **Sacramento, CA**. For more information, call 916/930-9330 or e-mail to conference@csrha.org.

Holiday Bazaar Quilt Raffle and Bake Sale, sponsored by the Isabella County Commission on Aging (CoA) **December 5** at the CoA senior center. For more information, call 989/772-0748.

Choices for Independence: A National Leadership Summit, sponsored by the Administration on Aging (AoA) **December 5-6** at the Renaissance Hotel in **Washington, DC**. For more information, call toll-free 877/657-4254 or e-mail to cblue@betah.com.

Annual Meeting and Public Policy Forum, entitled "A Public Sector for the Public Good: Engaging Citizens in a Shared Vision" and sponsored by the Michigan League for Human Services (MLHS) **December 7** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mlhs.org or call 517/487-5436. See also the AGING NETWORK NEWS/ACTIVITIES section of this issue (above).

20th Annual Symposium on Geriatric Medicine at Michigan State University and the 6th Annual Meeting of the Primary Care Dementia Network, sponsored by the Geriatric Education Center of Michigan State University (MSU) and the Primary Care Dementia Network of the Michigan Dementia Coalition **December 8** at the MSU Kellogg Center in **East Lansing** to provide an opportunity for primary care practitioners to examine the changing demographics in Michigan, and how these changes, along with increasing prevalence of dementia, will necessarily alter the way in which health care services will be delivered. For more information, call 517/353-7828.

Being Ageless: Living Well at Any Age, sponsored by the Omega Institute **January 12-14, 2007** at the Harbor Beach Marriott Resort & Spa in **Fort Lauderdale, FL** on how to live well, live long, and live with meaning and purpose. For more information, go to www.eomega.org or call toll-free 800/944-1001.

2007 Annual Housing Policy Conference and Lobby Day, sponsored by the National Low Income Housing Coalition **February 26-27, 2007** at the Capital Hilton in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.nlihc.org or call 202/662-1530.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCES

2006 Case Management: Creating Practice Excellence, the 6th Annual Conference for Health Care Professionals Engaged in Case Management sponsored by Michigan State University (MSU) Nursing and the MSU School of Social Work **November 16** at the MSU Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in **East Lansing** (with an optional pre-conference workshop **November 15** entitled **Self-Deception: Learning to Open Our Eyes to See Others**). For more information or to register, go to

www.nursing.msu.edu/contedconference.asp or call 517/355-3393 or toll-free 800/605-6424, Option 6.

8th Annual Art of Aging Successfully Conference, entitled “Vitality and Inspiration” and sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **March 29, 2007** at WSU in **Detroit** for creative works (such as art, writing, ceramics, needlework, photography, woodworking, singing, dance, etc.) by nonprofessional artists age 55 and older. For more information and/or submission guidelines, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

MICHIGAN NONPROFIT SEMINARS/TRAINING EVENTS

Estate Planning Seminar, a public event sponsored by Senior Services, Inc. especially for caregivers **November 16** at the Coover Center in **Kalamazoo**. For more information, go to www.seniorservices1.org or call 269/382-0515.

AARP Driver Safety Program, a refresher course for drivers age 50 and older sponsored by the Antrim County Commission on Aging (CoA) **November 16-17** at the CoA in **Bellaire**. For more information, call 231/533-8703.

Outcome – Based Treatment: Methods and Models for Working with Older Adults with Mental Health Issues, a seminar sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work **November 18** at the MSU East Fee Hall in **East Lansing**. For more information, go to www.socialwork.msu.edu/ceu or call 517/353-8620.

Self-Efficacy and Everyday Problem Solving Across the Lifespan, a free 2006 Fall Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **November 21** at the Freer House, adjacent to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Professional Development: Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration, a free 2006 Fall Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **November 28** at the Freer House, adjacent to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Ethics in Clinical Practice, and Pain & Pain Management, a workshop provided through APOGEE: A Joint venture of Touchstone innovare’ and Gerontology Network **December 1** at the DeVos Center for Scouting in **Grand Rapids**. For more information, call toll-free 800/730-6135 or e-mail to mwaskiewicz@gerontologynetwork.org.

Aging and Vision Impairment – Independence and Life Satisfaction, a free 2006 Fall Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **December 5** at the Freer House, adjacent to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Caregiver Tips for Surviving the Holidays, a free “Opening New Doors Community Education Program” sponsored by the Macomb County Senior Citizen Services Adult

Day Services Program **December 7** at the Southeast Health Center in **St. Clair Shores**. For more information, call 586/466-6817 or e-mail to kaw.kozlinski@macombcountymi.gov.

Aging and MS – Falls and MS and Cognition, a free 2006 Fall Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **December 12** at the Freer House, adjacent to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

DEMENTIA EVENTS/MEETINGS

6th Annual Meeting: Providing Health Care Services for Older Adults 2006-2030, sponsored by the Primary Care Dementia Network **December 8** at the Michigan State University (MSU) Kellogg Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call 517/353-7828 or e-mail to yonker@msu.edu.

Understanding Alzheimer's, an introductory program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Great Lakes Chapter to learn how to recognize possible signs of Alzheimer's disease; better understand how Alzheimer's is diagnosed; recognize the effects of Alzheimer's on the brain; and gain access to community resources and services. The programs will be held:

November 30 at the St. Joseph County Commission on Aging in **Three Rivers**
November 30 at the Workforce Development & Technology Center in **Hillsdale**
December 5 at the Chelsea District Library in **Chelsea**
December 11 at Foote Hospital in **Jackson**

For more information, go to www.alzmgreatlakes.org or call 800/272-3900.

Advances in Alzheimer's Research, a program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Great Lakes Chapter, and presented by physicians working in the dementia field, concerning the latest news from the research front, and progress scientists are making toward finding better treatments and, eventually, a cure for Alzheimer's:

November 16 at Washtenaw Community in **Ann Arbor**
November 20 at the Portage Senior Center in **Portage**

For more information, go to www.alzmgreatlakes.org or call 800/272-3900.

OTHER MICHIGAN EVENTS/MEETINGS

Single Point of Entry Informational Forum, sponsored by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Office of Long-Term Care Supports & Services **November 27** in the auditorium of the Michigan Library and Historical Center in **Lansing** to provide information, and answer questions about the new Single Point of Entry for long-term care services. For more information, call 517/373-3860 or e-mail to thelen@michigan.gov.

SKILLPATH/COMPUMASTER NONPROFIT SEMINARS

For more information about these seminars, go to www.skillpath.com.
To register and receive fee discounts, call Kathy Hepker 800/873-7545
(ext. 1137) and say you heard about it in the OSA e-newsletter.

The Essentials of Communicating with Diplomacy and Professionalism, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **November 15-16** in **Lansing** and **December 13-14** in **Traverse City**.

The Indispensable Assistant, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University for secretaries, administrative assistants and support people **November 15** in **Ann Arbor** and **January 26** in **Lansing**.

The Administrative Assistants Conference, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **November 15** in **Saginaw** and **November 16** in **Grand Rapids**.

Conference for Women, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **November 15** in **Troy** and **November 16** in **Jackson**.

Excelling as a First-Time Manager or Supervisor, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **November 15** in **Grand Rapids**.

Managing Multiple Projects, Objectives and Deadlines, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **November 16** in **Kalamazoo**, **December 13** in **Farmington Hills**, **December 14** in **Detroit**, **December 15** in **Grand Rapids**, **December 16** in **Grand Rapids**, **January 10** in **Troy**, **January 11** in **Dearborn**, **January 12** in **Ann Arbor**, **January 17** in **Flint** and **February 15** in **Jackson**.

Mastering Microsoft Project, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University to help plan, control and maximize a project's efficiency **November 28-29** in **Kalamazoo**.

The Conference on Leadership Development and Team Building, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **November 28** in **Lansing**, **November 29** in **Grand Rapids** and **November 30** in **Traverse City**.

Fundamentals of Successful Project Management, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 4-5** in **Farmington Hills** and **December 6-7** in **Ann Arbor**.

Managing Emotions and Thriving under Pressure, conducted by Skillpath Seminars, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **December 18** in **Farmington Hills** and **December 19** in **Dearborn**.

For more information about this seminar,
go to www.compumaster.net or call toll-free 800/867-4340.

Getting the Most from Microsoft Excel, conducted by CompuMaster, a nonprofit division of Graceland University **November 20** in **Flint**, **November 21** in **Traverse City** and **December 8** in **Troy**.

For more information about these seminars,
go to www.nationalseminarstraining.com or call toll-free 800/258-7246.

Human Resources (HR) Professionals Who've Recently Assumed HR Responsibilities, conducted by the National Seminars Group, a nonprofit division of the Rockhurst University Continuing Education Center **December 11** in **Traverse City**, **December 12** in **Grand Rapids**, **December 13** in **Lansing** and **December 15** in **Farmington Hills**.

How to be a Dynamic Trainer, conducted by the National Seminars Group, a nonprofit division of the Rockhurst University Continuing Education Center **January 9** in **Grand Rapids**, **January 10** in **Lansing**, **January 11** in **Flint** and **January 12** in **Farmington Hills**.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS OUTSIDE MICHIGAN

29th Annual Scientific Meeting: Education & the Gerontological Imagination, sponsored by the Gerontological Society of America **November 16-20** at the Adam's Mark Hotel in **Dallas, TX**. For more information, go to www.agingconference.com or call 202/842-1275.

Project Leadership, Management and Communications, a professional development program for government and business sponsored by ESI International and The George Washington University **November 28-30** in **Chicago, IL**. For more information, go to www.esi-intl.com or call toll-free 888/374-8884.

Health Action 2007, a conference sponsored by Families USA **January 25-27, 2007** at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.familiesusa.org or call 202/628-3030.

2007 Joint Conference of the National Council on Aging (NCoA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA), to be held **March 7-10, 2007** in **Chicago, IL**. For more information, go to www.agingconference.org, call 415/974-9600 or e-mail to jc07@asaging.org.

FOR-PROFIT TRAINING EVENTS/RESOURCES

The following information about for-profit training events and resources is presented as a public service for informational purposes only, and should not be interpreted as constituting OSA promotion or endorsement. OSA does not receive financial or any other benefit for providing this information.

Age-Wise Magazine Dispels Myths of Aging

This Michigan publication targets an older audience, but also has a multi-generational appeal. It profiles senior adults who have interesting experiences and a zest for life, and who share information about history highlights, health, nature, travel, poetry and inspiration. It also has some information about current legislation.

Now in its third year, Age-Wise magazine is distributed four times each year (fall, winter, spring and summer). It covers a wide range of topics of interest to senior adults. For example, the Summer, 2006 issue features stories about the founder of Wings of Mercy, Going to the Fair, Summer Musicians, Farm Memories, and The Arctic Edge. .

Age-Wise is written by free-lance writers from around the country, but most are from Michigan. It also welcomes input from readers. If they have a story to tell; know something about the history of their area, know about a good place to dine, or have information about an event, it asks them to send this information by e-mail to editor@agewisemagazine.com, or by US mail to 5460 Curtice in Mason, 48854.

For more information, including subscription rates, go to www.agewisemagazine.com or call 517/628-3400.

Instructional Videos Address Diabetes

Milner-Fenwick makes instructional videos, DVDs, CD-ROMs and audiocassettes. Many of them address aspects of Diabetes. This company works closely with the American Association of Diabetes Educators, and makes most of its sales to professionals at hospitals, clinics, etc. Its products are "excellent," according to Voice of the Diabetic, published by the National Federation of the Blind.

This company now offers a consumer audiotape/diabetes tutorial titled, "The Diabetes Home Audio Guide: Skills for Self Care." According to The Voice of the Diabetic, the instruction it provides is "basic, simple and usable by any diabetic, blind or sighted." For more information, call toll-free 800/432-8433 (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST).

For-Profit Seminars/Training Events

For more information about any of these seminars, go to www.pryor.com or call toll-free 800/556-2998.

How to Supervise People, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **November 16** in **Jackson**, **November 17** in **Southfield**, **November 28** in **Petoskey**, **November 29** in **Traverse City**, **November 30** in **Saginaw**, **December 1** in **Flint** and **January 16, 2007** in **Marquette**.

Microsoft Access, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **November 16-17** in **Ann Arbor**, **November 16-17** in **Grand Rapids**, **November 28-29** in **Troy** and **November 30-December 1** in **Southfield**.

How to Deliver Exceptional Customer Service, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **December 1** in **Grand Rapids**.

Excel Basics, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **December 4** in **Ann Arbor**, **December 6** in **Dearborn**, **December 6** in **Grand Rapids**, **December 14** in **Jackson** and **December 20** in **Flint**.

Microsoft Excel: Excel Basics, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **December 4** in Ann Arbor, **December 4** in Troy, **December 5** in Kalamazoo, **December 6** in Dearborn, **December 6** in Grand Rapids, **December 7** in Lansing, **December 11** in Petoskey, **December 13** in Traverse City, **December 14** in Jackson, **December 18** in Saginaw and **December 20** in Flint.

Excel: Beyond the Basics, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **December 5** in Ann Arbor, **December 5** in Troy, **December 6** in Kalamazoo, **December 7** in Dearborn, **December 7** in Grand Rapids, **December 8** in Lansing, **December 12** in Petoskey, **December 14** in Traverse City, **December 15** in Jackson, **December 19** in Saginaw and **December 21** in Flint.

The Outstanding Receptionist, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **December 18** in Marquette.

Dealing with Difficult People, conducted by Fred Pryor Seminars **January 22, 2007** in Marquette.

For more information about these seminars,
go to www.careertrack.com or call toll-free 800/556-3009.

Microsoft Access, conducted by CareerTrack **November 16-17** in Ann Arbor, **November 16-17** in Grand Rapids, **November 28-29** in Troy, and **November 30-December 1** in Southfield.

Managing Emotions Under Pressure, conducted by Career Track **January 8** in Petoskey, **January 9** in Traverse City, **January 10** in Saginaw, **January 11** in Flint, **January 22** in Kalamazoo, **January 23** in Grand Rapids, **January 24** in Lansing, **January 25** in Ann Arbor, **January 26** in Troy, **February 1** in Jackson and **February 2** in Southfield.

FEDERAL REGISTER
(October 23 -- November 10)

State Department Proposes Rule Changes for Deaths Abroad

See the Federal Register dated **October 24** (Vol. 71, No. 205). Go to "State Department" and see "Proposed Rules." This proposed rule from the State Department proposes to update and amend its regulations regarding the handling of the deaths and estates of American citizens who die abroad. The existing State Department regulations were originally issued in 1957. They need to be re-drafted in plain language and changed to reflect changes in State Department statutory authority and current practice. They also must be re-drafted to reflect changes made to the James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act with regard to State Department responsibilities relating to the deaths and personal estates of United States citizens and non-citizen nationals abroad. Public comment must be received by **December 26**. For more information, call 202/736-9110.

Centers for Disease Control Establish Healthy Aging Program

See the Federal Register dated **October 25** (Vol. 71, No. 206). Go to “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention” and see “Notices, Organization, Functions, and Authority Delegations.” This notice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention amends its statement of organization, functions and delegations of authority to reflect the establishment of the Healthy Aging Program within its National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion that, among other things, will serve as an active link between public health and aging services networks to provide leadership in health promotion and disease prevention; contribute to the capacity of systems and organizations to improve the health of older adults; promote expanding prevention research for older adults by supporting the Prevention Research Centers Healthy Aging Research Network; administer data into action through the development of The State of Aging and Health in America report series; collaborate with aging organizations to expand the reach to professionals, the public and the media through the development and evaluation of web-based health promotion modules and media backgrounds on various older adult health topics; and direct and disseminate the national public health and action plan for brain health as part of the Alzheimer’s disease segment of the Healthy Aging Program.

Corporation Proposes Criminal History Checks

See the Federal Register dated **October 26** (Vol. 71, No. 207). Go to “Corporation for National and Community Service” and see “Proposed Rules.” This proposed rule from the Corporation for National and Community Service, with a request for public comment by **December 26**, proposes a regulation requiring grantees to conduct and document criminal history checks on Senior Companions and Foster Grandparents, and on Americorps State/National (including the Education Award Program) participants and grant-funded staff in those programs who, on a reoccurring basis, have access to children, persons age 60 or older, and individuals with disabilities. Many national and community service programs are dedicated to helping children and older persons, and otherwise serving vulnerable individuals while striving to recruit a diverse corps of participants. With this commitment comes the responsibility to safeguard the well-being of program beneficiaries, including the effective screening of staff, participants and volunteers. There is a strong awareness of the need for programs to put effective safeguards in place to protect children and other vulnerable populations from abuse or harm. For more information, call 202/606-6930.

SSA Announces 3.3% Benefit Increases for 2007

See the Federal Register dated **October 26** (Vol. 71, No. 207). Go to “Social Security Administration” and see “Notices.” This notice from the Social Security Administration (SSA) announces that the next cost-of-living increase, or automatic benefit increase, is 3.3 percent for benefits under the Social Security Act. Among other things, this includes a 3.3 percent cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits, effective for December, 2006; an increase in the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) monthly benefit amounts for 2007 to \$623 for an eligible individual, \$934 for an eligible individual with an eligible spouse, and \$312 for an essential person; and the monthly exempt amounts under the Social Security retirement earnings test for taxable years ending in calendar year 2007 to be \$1,080 and \$2,870. This has been done by the SSA Commissioner, who in accordance with the Social Security Act, must publish the benefit increase percentage, and the revised table of special minimum benefits, as well as the monthly exempt amounts under the Social Security retirement earnings test for 2007. For more

information, call 410/965-3013.

CMS Proposes all LTC Facilities be Equipped with Sprinkler Systems

See the Federal Register dated **October 27** (Vol. 71, No. 208). Go to “Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services” and see “Proposed Rules.” This proposed rule from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) would require all long-term care (LTC) facilities to be equipped with a sprinkler system. The CMS requests public comment by **December 26**, in particular concerning the duration of a phase-in period to allow LTC facilities to install such systems. Since 1971, Medicare and Medicaid regulations have incorporated the requirements of the Life Safety Code (LSC), published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing loss of life due to fire. The CMS adopted the LSC to ensure that patients and residents are consistently protected from fire. The 2000 edition of the LSC required all newly constructed buildings containing health care facilities to have an automatic sprinkler system installed throughout the building. However, this did not require existing buildings to have the same, if they met certain construction requirements. Likewise, the 2000 edition of the LSC required an existing building that meets these construction standards to install sprinklers if they undergo a major renovation. However, in such cases, sprinklers were required only in the renovated sections. This proposed rule from CMS would close these loop holes by requiring all LTC facilities to be equipped with sprinkler systems. For more information, call 410/786-6617 or 410/786-6998.

HUD Announces Housing for Elderly Grant Recipients

See the Federal Register dated **October 30** (Vol. 71, No. 209). Go to “Housing and Urban Development Department” and see “Notices, Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards.” This notice of funding awards from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) notifies the public of funding decisions made by HUD for funding under the Super Notice of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA) for the section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program for fiscal year (FY) 2005. The names of the grant recipients and the amounts of the three awards for Michigan are (1) Presbyterian Villages of Michigan in Battle Creek, a non-profit sponsor, \$3,751,000 (capital advance) and \$664,500 (five-year rental subsidy) for 45 units, (2) Cooperative Services, Inc. in Detroit, a co-sponsor with the Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance, \$6,354,900 (capital advance) and \$1,107,500 (five-year rental subsidy) for 62 units; and (3) Presbyterian Villages of Michigan in Hampton Township, a non-profit sponsor, \$5,045,400 (capital advance) and \$907,500 (five-year rental subsidy) for 51 units. For more information, call 202/708-3000.

DOT Adopts New ADA Accessibility Guidelines

See the Federal Register dated **October 30** (Vol. 71, No. 209). Go to “Transportation Department” and see “Rules.” This final rule from the Department of Transportation (DOT), effective **November 29**, announces that the DOT is amending its Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations to adopt, as its regulatory standards, the new ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) recently issued by the Access Board, including technical amendments the Access Board subsequently made to the new ADAAG. In adopting the new ADAAG as its standards, DOT is making minor modifications to some of its guidelines, and is providing further guidance concerning these newly-adopted standards. The Access Board is responsible for creating guidelines for the accessibility of buildings, facilities and vehicles, subject to ADA requirements. DOT is responsible

for incorporating into its ADA regulations, accessibility standards that are consistent with the Access Boards accessibility guidelines. For more information, call 202/366-9306.

HUD Explains How to Apply for Grants through Grants.gov

See the Federal Register dated **October 31** (Vol. 71, No. 210). Go to “Housing and Urban Development Department” and see “Notices.” This notice from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides instructions and advice to potential applicants applying for funding under HUD’s competitive grants programs that are available through Grants.gov. It provides information to help applicants understand the electronic submission process, and more easily make the transition to electronic application submission. To facilitate the fiscal year (FY) 2007 federal grant application process, prospective applicants should immediately begin the registration process or renew their registration from prior years. Grants.gov is the federal portal for applicants to electronically find and apply for over 1,000 funding opportunities made available by the 26 federal grant-making agencies. Grants.gov offers grant applicants as a common website where applicants can use one password and ID to apply for a variety of federal assistance programs. For more information, call toll-free 800/483-8929.

President Proclaims November National Alzheimer’s Disease Month

See the Federal Register dated **November 2** (Vol. 71, No. 212). Go to “Presidential Documents” and see “Proclamations, Special Observances.” This proclamation by the President proclaims **November 2006** as National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month, and encourages citizens to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities. It renews our resolve to fight against this devastating disease, and to take time to remember the loved ones who have died from it. It also recognizes the patients and family members who are affected by it, and with gratitude, recognizes the efforts made by caretakers and researchers who are pursuing better treatments and a cure.

President Proclaims November National Diabetes Month

See the Federal Register dated **November 2** (Vol. 71, No. 212). Go to “Presidential Documents” and see “Proclamations, Special Observances.” This proclamation by the President proclaims **November 2006** as National Diabetes Month, and encourages citizens to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities. It raises awareness of the risk factors, prevention and treatment of this chronic disease that affects 21 million Americans. It encourages citizens to help prevent and reduce the effects of diabetes by maintaining healthy eating habits and exercising daily. It also encourages citizens to consult with their doctors, and receive a preventive screening to help detect diabetes in its earliest stages. In addition, it recognizes medical professionals, researchers and others who are making a positive difference in the lives of Americans suffering from this disease. Diabetes research initiatives and diabetes education programs are being conducted to help prevent diabetes and find a cure. This includes a National Diabetes Education Program that has helped inform millions of Americans about the risk factors of diabetes and the benefits of making healthy choices.

President Proclaims November National Caregivers Month

See the Federal Register dated **November 2** (Vol. 71, No. 212). Go to “Presidential Documents” and see “Proclamations, Special Observances.” This proclamation by the President proclaims **November 2006** as National Family Caregivers Month, and

encourages citizens to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities. It recognizes the vital role caregivers play to bring love and support to family members and friends who are chronically ill, elderly or disabled. It also recognizes the true spirit of compassion that is exemplified by those who provide assistance and support to their loved ones by assisting them with their everyday activities and special needs. They must often make great personal sacrifices to provide those who are ill, aging and disabled an opportunity to stay in familiar surroundings and remain a part of their community.

President Proclaims November National Hospice Month

See the Federal Register dated **November 2** (Vol. 71, No. 212). Go to “Presidential Documents” and see “Proclamations, Special Observances.” This proclamation by the President proclaims **November 2006** as National Hospice Month, and it encourages citizens to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities. It recognizes hospice caregivers for their dedication to providing comfort and peace to individuals during their last days, and for helping build a society that values life. Hospice physicians, nurses, counselors and volunteers bring care and support to the terminally ill through physical, psychological, social and spiritual aid. By helping to control pain and minimize other symptoms, they bring relief to those who are terminally ill and treat them with dignity and respect. Hospice caregivers also reach out to families and friends to provide guidance and counseling after the loss of a loved one. Through their tireless efforts, they demonstrate kindness and devotion to help make our country a more loving and caring place.

LSC Regulations to Comply with the ADA

See the Federal Register dated **November 7** (Vol. 71, No. 215). Go to “Legal Services Corporation” and see “Rules, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability.” This final rule from the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), effective **December 7**, amends LSC’s regulation on prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of disability. These changes are intended to improve the utility of the regulation for LSC, its grantees and other interested persons, by updating the terminology used throughout the regulation; by adding a reference to compliance with the Americans for Disability Act (ADA); and by adding language to the enforcement provision that sets forth LSC policy with regard to the investigation of complaints about the violation of this regulation. For more information, call 202/295-1624.

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

The following bills are listed for informational/educational purposes only. The list does not constitute OSA support or endorsement. Nor does it indicate the critical bills OSA considers to be of priority. All of this information is current, as of the date of this issue. But it is subject to change at any time through legislative action.

For more information about the content and legislative history of a particular bill, go to www.legislature.mi.gov (the Michigan Legislature website) and enter the bill number in the box under “Legislative Bill Search.” Then click on “Go!” and the status page of the bill will appear with current information about the bill. Click on a “PDF” or “TXT” box for a copy of the latest version of the bill, or a House or Senate analysis of the bill.

The Michigan Legislature website (www.michiganlegislature.org) is a free service of the Legislative Internet Technology Team in cooperation with the Michigan Legislative Council, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate. Also, call the Michigan Law Library at 517/373-0630 for legal research questions. If you have a question or opinion about any of these bills, contact your state legislator. Also, you may call OSA Director **Sharon Gire** at 517/373-7876 or e-mail her at osadirector@michigan.gov.

State Legislature Reconvenes

The Michigan State Legislature reconvened on **November 9**, two days after the **November 7** election.

New House Bills (October 23 – November 10)

House Bill 6557 of 2006

Occupations; nurses; licensure of graduates from a nursing education program located outside the United States who do not have a certificate from the commission on graduates of foreign nursing schools; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Hoon-Yung Hopgood** (D-Taylor) and co-sponsored by seven others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 9-20-06.

House Bill 6603 of 2006

Insurance; health; health care insurer file sharing; require. Creates new act. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 11-9-06.

House Bill 6604

Local government; public services; funding for training first responders; create. Amends Public Act (PA) 379 of 2004 and Public Act (PA) 237 of 1998. Sponsored by **Rep. Rick Jones** (R-Grand Ledge) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Local Government and Urban Policy 11-9-06.

New Senate Bills (October 23 – November 10)

None.

House and Senate Bills that have Moved (October 23 – November 10)

House Bill (HB) 5003 of 2005

Human services; medical services; county maintenance of effort rate for nursing homes; extend ending date. Amends Public Act (PA) 280 of 1939. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 6-23-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 9-20-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 11-9-06.

House Bill (HB) 6039 of 2006

The bill would add a new section to the Public Health Code to establish in the

Department of Community Health the Healthcare Information Technology and Infrastructure Development Fund. The fund would be administered by the Health Information Technology Commission to promote the development and adoption of healthcare information technologies designed to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of healthcare services. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Tie barred with HB 5336 of 2005 (which mean neither bill can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 36 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 5-4-06. House substitute bill adopted by the House 9-20-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 9-20-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 11-9-06.

House Bill (HB) 6209 of 2006

Property tax; exemptions; certain nonprofit businesses that provide services to persons with disabilities; provide for exemption. Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Jerry Kooiman** (R-Grand Rapids) and co-sponsored by 18 others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 6-15-06. House substitute bill adopted 9-20-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 9-21-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance 11-9-06.

House Bill (SB) 6478 of 2006

This bill would amend the Social Welfare Act to require the Department of Community Health, in conjunction with the Office of Financial and Insurance Services and the Department of Human Services, to establish a long-term care partnership program in Michigan to provide for the financing of long-term care (LTC) through a combination of private insurance and Medicaid. The LTC partnership program would be required to do all of the following: provide incentives for individuals to ensure against the costs of providing for their LTC needs; provide a mechanism for individuals to qualify for coverage of the cost of their LTC needs under Medicaid without first being required to substantially exhaust their resources; and alleviate the financial burden on the state's medical assistance program by encouraging the pursuit of private initiatives. Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-14-06. Senate substitute bill adopted 9-20-06. Passed by the Senate and given immediate effect 9-20-06. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 11-9-06.

Senate Bill (SB) 1467 of 2006

Health facilities; other; sunset on collection of hospital and nursing home quality assurance assessments and increase in hospital assessment; eliminate and provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 9-20-06. Discharge Committee approved 11-9-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 11-9-06.

WEBSITES

www.medicareadvocacy.org is the website of Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc., a national, non-partisan education and advocacy organization that identifies and promotes policy and advocacy solutions to ensure that elders and people with disabilities have access to comprehensive Medicare coverage and excellent health care by providing the highest quality analysis, education and advocacy.

www.grandparenting.org is the website of The Grandparent Foundation, a nonprofit corporation founded in 1980 that is dedicated to raising grandparent consciousness, and to better the lives of grandchildren and their parents and grandparents by promoting the importance of grandparenting as a role and function that gives important meaning and empowerment to later life, and benefits all family members. In addition, it promotes the aspects of “grandparenting” as a role for all elders, whether or not they have biological grandchildren.

www.cms.hhs.gov is the website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). It discusses in detail the Open Enrollment that began on November 15. It provides information about the official government handbook entitled Medicare & You 2007 that covers what’s new, what’s covered, health plans, prescription drug plans, and a person’s rights. It also addresses 2007 Drug Plan Options, the “My Health, My Medicare” fall campaign, bridging the coverage gap, and Part D enrollment data.

www.olhsa is the website of the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA), a nonprofit, tax-exempt, Community Action Agency to enable the low income, elderly and persons with disabilities living in Oakland and Livingston Counties to become self-sufficient. It provides a variety of services for senior adults to help them maintain and improve their quality of life.

www.ncpad.org is the website of the National Center on Physical Activity and Disability (NCPAD) that promotes health benefits that can be gained from recurring physical activity. It is a resource and information center, a health promotion center, and a research and training center for everything concerning physical activity and disability. NCPAD is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

www.seniors.tcnet.org is the website of the Traverse Area District Library in Traverse City. It is designed for senior adults, and their families, friends, neighbors and caregivers to help them find local and remote, as well as regional and statewide resources, which address the concerns of senior adults and those who care about them. It provides a bank of online articles on subjects such as grandparenting, senior health issues, personal safety, home businesses for supplemental income, and swindlers who prey on elders.

www.casscoa.org is the website of the Cass County Council on Aging (CoA) in Cassopolis. It contains updated information. Designed for senior adult readers, the text is easy to read, and visitors to the site can increase or decrease the text size for even greater readability. The CoA’s newsletter is also available on the website. Visitors may search the entire newsletter for a particular name, word or event. It also contains full descriptions of all CoA programs. It also provides applications for services and volunteer opportunities that can be downloaded.

www.guardianship.org is the website of the National Guardianship Association (NGA) that provides educational training and networking opportunities for guardians, and about guardianship to promote the highest level of values, standards and ethics; and to ensure a nationally recognized standard of excellence. This website provides a wealth of information about topics such as guardianship/conservatorship, resources for family guardians, the rights of an individual under guardianship, the guardian as surrogate decision-maker, and assisting the guardian in selecting a nursing facility.

www.mpas.org is the website of the Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc.

(MPAS). It is dedicated to advancing the dignity, equality, self-determination, and expressed choices of individuals with disabilities, brain injuries, and mental health and substance abuse issues by promoting, expanding and protecting their human and legal rights. It provides information on topics related to the recipient rights system, abuse and neglect, assistive technology, housing evictions, and guardianship.

www.seniorcorps.gov is the website for Senior Corps, a part of the Corporation for National and Community Service. It contains information about Senior Corps programs (which includes the Foster Grandparent, Senior Companion and RSVP programs), and lists Senior Corps program by state, including Michigan. It also has a link to The Resource Center that provides tools and training for volunteer and service programs, including online resources, printed publications, and related topics.

ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Sharon L. Gire, OSA Director

This electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) from the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** is available at no cost.

OSA is the designated State Unit on Aging for Michigan, as authorized by the Older Americans Act of 1965 and the Older Michiganians Act of 1981. OSA advocates on behalf of individuals age 60 or older for policies, programs and services that benefit them and their families. OSA administers federal and state funds and manages grants for services provided by the aging network service providers.

The events/meetings, funding/grants, and other resources described in Resources for Aging should not be interpreted as constituting OSA endorsement. This information is presented for informational/educational purposes only.

Please help spread the word about this free resource for aging to those in the aging network and others who are interested. If you or others wish to receive it directly by e-mail, send a request by e-mail to researcher/writer **David Dekker** at dekkerd@michigan.gov. Please include name, e-mail address, telephone number, city and organization/agency (if any).

Comments and suggestions are appreciated. Also, readers are invited to submit information to be considered for publication. Please send to dekkerd@michigan.gov or to Resources for Aging, P.O. Box 30676, Lansing, MI 48909-8176.

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